

PUBLIC FORUM

Views of Others on Commission Form of Government for Clovis.

FAVORS COMMISSION.

Whether the commission form of government carries on December 27 is purely a matter of the citizens of Clovis voting either for or against the change. If the citizens, or owner of the Clovis water works, electric light, and sewerage, want efficiency in management they can get it by voting for and seeing that the commission form is won at the election. If the owners are satisfied without anyone except the city council to see that the city property which the residents of Clovis own, it is well enough to let its government remain as it now is. With a commission form of government the city will have a city manager who will devote his full and complete time to the management of the city's affairs. The city owns property valued at about half a million dollars and under the present form of government the only management or attention given this half million dollar business is about two meetings per month of the city council. The opponents of the change say it is impossible to get back into the old aldermanic form of government should we go into the commission form of government. This is an error. If Clovis does not wish to continue the commission form of government, once she has tried it, she can return to the aldermanic form of government. The city manager will be absolutely at the command of the three commissioners and they can release him from the city employ at any time without consulting anyone except themselves. The city manager will have absolute control over the city business and will be hired and paid to see that the city water and light users get a fair, square deal and that every man who works for the city will be under the city manager. It is good business and good sense to have some one devote his full time to the \$500,000 city business of Clovis. Under the form of government we are now under it is against the law for a city to employ a city manager, and should the council whip the matter around this strain, the city manager would have no authority and could not accomplish anything. Compare the City of Clovis' business with one of the big banks of Clovis, or any business house. Is it reasonable to even suppose that any business concern with a capital of half a million dollars would leave the whole business to the management of only the directors with meetings two weeks apart and sometimes four weeks apart? This is not an appeal to the citizenship of Clovis to vote on a political question, but a question of whether or not the city business of Clovis shall have business management or run like it has in the past. We do not criticize the present councilmen or mayor nor any past mayor or councilmen, but it is a known fact that no eight men can meet twice in thirty days and attend to a \$500,000 business and do it right. The big banks of Clovis have a president, cashier and some six or seven other good people right on the job from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. each day seeing that their business is attended to right and properly. Suppose a bank ran with only a meeting of directors each two weeks, would that be considered good business? It would not, and neither is it good business to run the City of Clovis, a half million dollar business, in a slack way. Clovis needs a manager on the job every day. Voters should investigate this matter and learn from business men the why and wherefore before they rush madly to the polls and vote against the commission form of government. Thousands of cities in the United States have adopted the commission form of government and not two percent has returned to the old aldermanic form of government. If cities like Wichita, Kansas, with 80,000 population, can be managed better with three men than eight aldermen, why can't Clovis? Lots of cities in the United States with 100,000 population have the commission form of government and they say it is better and the proof of it is they are not returning to the old form. If Clovis doesn't like the commission form of government, she can return to what we now have.

A Clovis Voter.

NOT CONVINCED.

The writer attended the Forum meeting at the Court House Friday



evening with an open mind to be convinced that Clovis should adopt the proposed commission form of government, but will frankly say that this meeting confirmed my belief that Clovis should reject this change. The champions for the change presented as argument the following reasons:

I

That the proposed change presented no moral issue. Let's see if this is true. In ten days after the three commissioners are elected they can meet and two of them will have the authority to repeal every moral ordinance that Clovis possesses. There will be no power in the mayor to veto the same and in this brief time two men can destroy all that Clovis has been able to gain morally in ten years. Also under said law the business manager shall employ all policemen and discharge them at will. The city has no voice in who shall be the manager, and if he wants an open town he can have it by employing officers that will not enforce our laws. Then how can one say that there is no moral questions in this issue. The moral standing of Clovis is one of her greatest assets and do we want to take a chance and throw this away?

II

They next argued that Clovis had property worth a half million dollars and that the same should have the personal supervision of a business manager, and to illustrate this they referred to our superintendent of schools and asked what our schools would be without a superintendent. Anyone who is informed, knows that Clovis has always maintained a superintendent who has the special training and skill in handling our valuable property, and if we employ a city manager we could not afford to keep both so the man of skill would have to go and where is the benefit.

III

They finally admitted that they knew nothing about the commission form of government but they had letters from men who did know and that settled it. No doubt, these letters were all solicited, and while they boasted the commission form of government, I believe I could solicit from the same towns and obtain many more letters condemning the same. In fact, while this argument was being made a man of high standing in Clovis stated to me that he had just received four unsolicited letters from good men in Albuquerque advising us to defat the commission form of government. These letters they produced can have little weight because none of them were from towns working under our proposed law.

Even if we should agree with those men that the commission form of government was best and that the law presented to us for adoption was a good one (which it is not) we would then have serious doubt whether Clovis is large enough for this form of government. Let us illustrate our meaning in this way. In larger cities the stores have men employed as floor walkers who greet the customers and see that they get prompt attention and see that no thefts are committed. This is fine and no doubt pays the merchant. But why do not the merchants of Clovis employ floor walkers? Simply because their business is too small, and will not justify the expense. So it is with Clovis in regard to a paid mayor and city manager. We are too small and can not afford it.

I will mention only a few places in which this law is fatally defective.

1. It provides no recall for our safety.
2. It gives us no chance to revert to our present form of government.
3. It provides no safeguards for the city.
4. The commissioners are given

LAST MINUTE SUGGESTIONS

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TIES
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SLIPPERS
UNDERWEAR
MUFFLERS

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MANDELL'S

The Store of Quality

too much power. Two can repeal all our laws.

5. No limit is placed upon the salary of the business manager.

6. He is not required to furnish a bond.

7. He is not required to furnish financial statements.

8. He is permitted to set salaries of all officers without limit.

9. He is not required to keep expenditures within a budget.

10. He is not required to be a man of technical skill and learning in the different departments of the city government.

11. He is authorized to discharge at will all policemen. Too much power and opens the way for graft.

12. The commissioners, except mayor, are provided with no salary, and substantial men will not run for the office.

13. The law provides no adequate way to nominate commissioners.

14. The commissioners all go out at the same time, and all new men

coming in would be costly.

15. It gives the mayor no veto power.

Space will not permit pointing out further defects. Suffice to say that this law was too bad for Tucuman to swallow, and will Clovis take it with a gulp? When I go on a journey I want to know the way or have a good guide. In this manner Clovis has neither. It is a case of the blind leading the blind. The good people of Clovis had better watch their step on the 27th and lock the stable door before the horse is stolen. S. O. S.

A Citizen.

JUNIORS ENTERTAIN.

The junior class of the high school entertained themselves, the faculty and the football team Friday evening at 7:30, and the following program was rendered:

Violin Solo, "Ain't We Got Fun"—Floyd Marsh.

Contralto Solo, "All By Myself"—Gertrude Hockenhull.

Duet, "There's Only One Fall After

All"—Gertrude Hockenhull, Blanche Lanewood Stevenson.

Vocal Solo, "Second Hand Rose"—Blanche Lanewood Stevenson.

Following this came the amusing part of the evening in a fashion show in which Blanche Phillips and Billie Greear represented a sport girl and boy, Hortense Bomar and Earl Collins were attired in evening costume, and the college students were Louise Walton as a senior, Harold Murphy as a junior, Cleo Alcorn as a sophomore and William Jones as a Freshman. Representations of the faculty were in the person of Ruby Beaver, Minnie Hazelwood, Velma Houk, Thelma Houk, Jessie Prouty, Edith Heatherly, Bessie Boushelle, Carl Monzingo, Lloyd McFarland, George Bell, Monroe Gant, Jean Walton and John Rowell. The bell boy for the evening was Leonard Jernigan, who helped make the program interesting throughout. After the program, refreshments of cocoa and sandwiches were served in the Domestic Science room, and the happy evening ended.

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